

ment under the laws of the State, which is the right of every citizen of a free country. Leaving entirely out of consideration for the present the question of nurses *vs.* the public, men *vs.* women, employed *vs.* employers, we contend that the purpose at the bottom of these efforts is treachery towards the principles of a free government and is subversive of the personal liberty guaranteed to the citizens of a free state.

The English nurses are petitioning the government to give them a just meed of protection, regulation, and definite standing under the laws of the State, and American nurses have begun to secure this legal protection. In opposition to this legal and honorable position, the men who have drafted these proposals purpose to make themselves the arbiters and dictators of the entire future of an enormous body of women whose views and wishes have not only not been asked, but have been studiously ignored.

A significant little straw, showing what wise and liberal heads have been exchanging ideas, is the following: We have already characterized the remark of a "leading surgeon" to the effect that nurses would, if registered, form a "*trade union*" as a mental bogey. The English articles have a clause forbidding any regulation which would make the association "*a trade union*."

This tells a tale without a doubt. And, as the inference is unjust and offensive to the labor man and member of his union, so is it doubly insulting to nurses, an inference twice illiberal, twice unfair, and altogether petty.

The English propositions are the worst. But behind the more alluring aspect of the American project lies the same spirit,—the world-old spirit,—the determination to rule and to predominate at the cost of others.

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#### ITEMS

MISS GARRAN, the secretary of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, who has lately visited England, gave many interesting details of progress in Australia, which are given in full in the *British Journal of Nursing* for February 4. The association maintains a voluntary register of nurses trained in the colony, a system which, it is expected, will culminate in the registration of nurses by the State, as this subject is already receiving attention.

The hospitals, in order to gain the right of registration for their pupils, are required to show a certain standard of method and teaching. Although this is all voluntary, yet much good has been done by the example of the leading hospitals. Yet it must be noticed that, after all, the most effective tool in the hands of the association is, that a

*government regulation* has been secured, making it obligatory on the hospitals to appoint to the positions of matron *only such nurses* as stand on the Register of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association—in other words, only highly trained and efficient women. As the hospitals are subsidized by the government, it is quite possible to enforce this rule, and the results are most wholesome. Here shows the power of the State. Miss Garren emphasized the fact that the weakest points of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association's work so far lies in the impossibility of bringing schools of low standard under the control of a voluntary organization.

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BERLIN has a Central Committee for combating tuberculosis by giving aid and instruction in the homes. Headquarters are in the Charité Hospital, and since the beginning of the work last September so many patients have presented themselves that eight nurses are kept busy in visiting them. Their work is in its details quite similar to that done in America. The nurses visit the homes and oversee all details of sleeping and living rooms, isolation of dishes, destruction of sputa, etc. When necessary, beds are provided, or, if the dwellings are unwholesome, assistance is given in paying rent elsewhere. Nourishment in needy cases is given, and, in general, a wise and intelligent befriending of the family. The patients are not medically attended by this society. This is the difference between its work and that of the dispensaries. As they all have their own physicians, it is of great importance that these should coöperate cordially with the work of the society, which is preëminently to assist recovery and to prevent further contagion through nursing and advice.

THE Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain has recently elected Miss G. A. Rogers, superintendent of the Leicester Infirmary, as chairman. Miss Rogers has had a long and honorable career as a nurse and head of a large training-school, and is greatly admired and beloved for her nobility of character and ever-advancing liberality of thought. She takes a part in all of the forward movements in nursing, both national and international.

The secretary of the council is Miss Eleanor C. Barton, also a woman of wide culture and liberal views.

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*Una*, the organ of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, formerly published quarterly, is now a monthly. It is an attractive and well-edited journal, and ought to have a circulation in America. It is published at 317 Collins Street, Melbourne.

THE Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh has two women on its Board of Management, Miss A. C. Imlach and Miss Louisa Stevenson. At a recent election both of these women were successful in a choice of six candidates out of nine.

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THE Scottish hospital in Damascus is most interestingly described in *Blackwood's* for December, and the prettiest possible word pictures are given of the Arab patients.

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A LEAGUE of the Nurses of Bethnal Green Infirmary has been formed through the initiative of Miss Dodds, the matron.

